

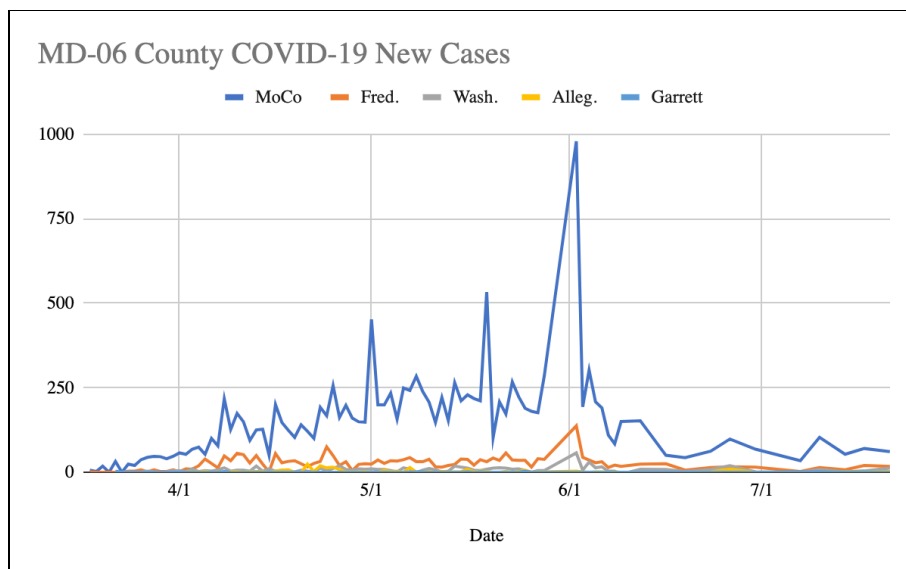
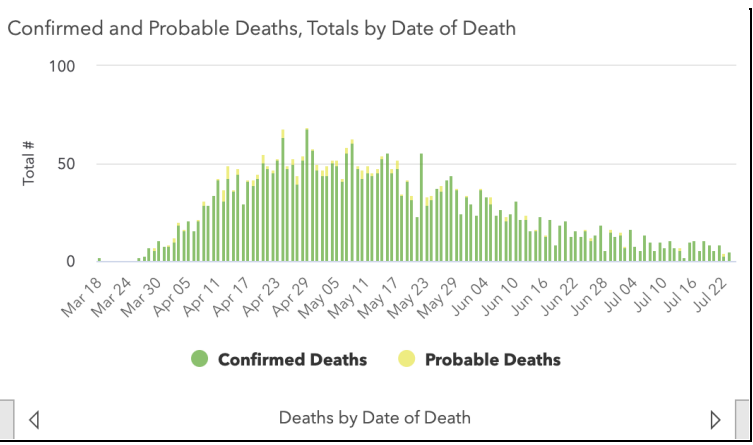
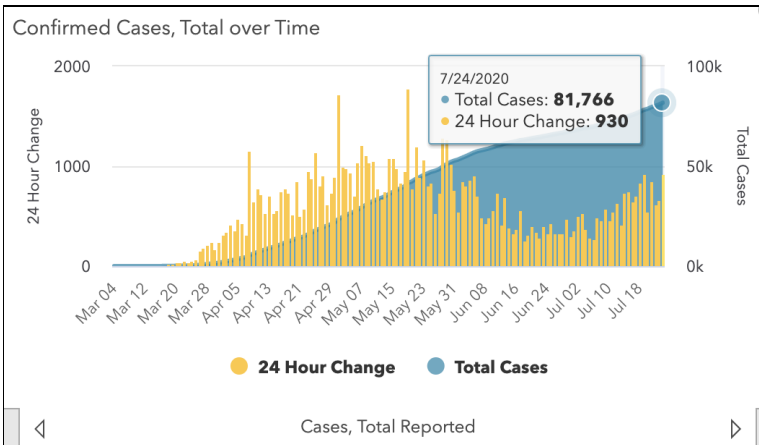
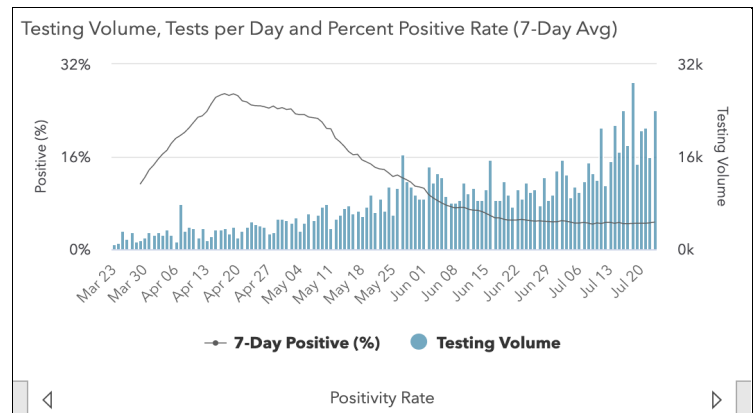
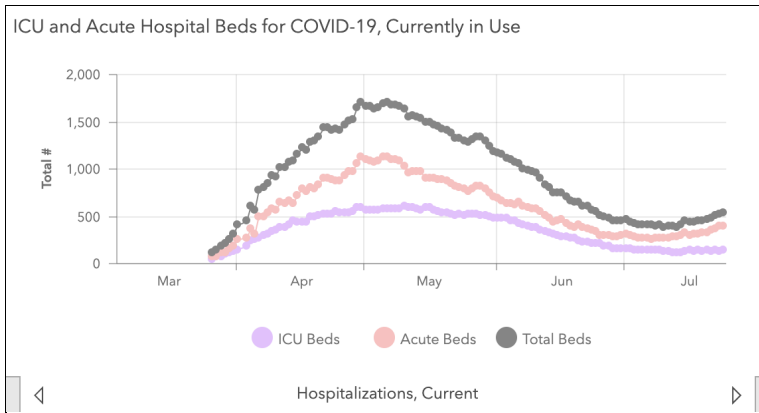
Coronavirus Update: July 24th

Congressman David Trone (MD-06)

Stats @ July 24th, 3:00 pm

Charts are sourced from the Maryland [coronavirus](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/) website. Every county is now in phase 2 of reopening.

MARYLAND DATA



Total cases reported: MoCo 16,768, Fred 2,833, Wash 833, Alleg 244, Garrett 41. MD: 81,766, MD deaths: 3,293.

As of 3:00 pm on July 24, the U.S. had recorded 4,073,243 confirmed cases and 144,734 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](https://www.jhu.edu/)).

Federal News

- At least 4,073,243 coronavirus cases and 144,734 deaths have been recorded in the United States, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. As the numbers climb, more than 150 prominent US medical experts, scientists, teachers, nurses and others have signed a letter to political leaders urging them to shut down the country and start over to contain the surging coronavirus pandemic. ([CNN](#))
- About 40 percent of adults in the U.S. have at least one underlying health condition that would put them at risk for severe complications of COVID-19, according to a report published Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Certain chronic health problems, such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and cardiovascular disease, are known to be more prevalent among COVID-19 patients sick enough to be hospitalized. ([NBC](#))
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new resources and guidelines encouraging schools to reopen in the fall, saying COVID-19 poses lower risks to school-age children and that extended closures can be harmful to students. CDC cautioned, however, that schools must take steps to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission when they reopen. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
- White House coronavirus advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci said Friday that a coronavirus vaccine likely won't be "widely available" to the American public until "several months" into 2021. Public health officials and scientists expect to know whether at least one of the numerous potential COVID-19 vaccines in development is safe and effective by the end of December or early next year. ([CNBC](#))

Maryland Updates

- Maryland recorded more than 900 new coronavirus cases on Friday, bringing the state's total to nearly 82,000, according to data from the Maryland Department of Health. As of Friday, 81,766 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the state, up 930 from Thursday. ([CBS](#))
- On Thursday, Governor Larry Hogan updated Marylanders on the state's ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery, stressing the need for continued caution and vigilance. The governor was joined by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon, who announced that MSDE will allow local school systems to determine when and how they reopen their schools. MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health released [guidance for school preparation and response](#) to a COVID-19 outbreak once in-school instruction resumes. ([Office of Governor Larry Hogan](#))
- Governor Larry Hogan today announced open enrollment for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Assisted Housing Relief Program, which will provide a four-month rent rebate voucher for renters living in DHCD-financed properties who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Office of Governor Larry Hogan](#))

District Updates

- Montgomery County
 - a. As of Friday morning, there have been 80,836 confirmed cases throughout the state. That is an increase of 930 cases in the last 24 hours. Montgomery County makes up only 12% of the new cases statewide, down from a high of over 30% in May.
 - b. Two Maryland companies are partnering to manufacture a potential vaccine candidate for COVID-19. Gaithersburg-based Altimmune, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company, and Vigene Biosciences, a Rockville-based biotechnology company, announced the partnership in a [press release](#) July 22. The vaccine, known as AdCOVID (TM), works to block infection by stimulating antibodies in the nasal cavity and can potentially defend against the infection and prevent spread.

- c. Small businesses that have updated their establishments to adhere to safety protocols could be eligible for a grant program slated to launch July 29. The \$14 million initiative, formally known as the 'Reopen Montgomery' Small Business Grant Program, will offer subsidies of \$5,000 or less to cover reopening costs incurred to comply with health and safety requirements amid the pandemic. All businesses and organizations that have reopened since March 16 and within 30 days of when the county begins Phase 3 are eligible for grants.
 - d. The Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) says they are well aware of what landlords and tenants are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of eviction and homeless prevention, DHCA Director Aseem Nigam says the department has been working closely with non-profit organizations, legal aids, and for-profit entities to address landlord and tenant concerns. "Pre COVID, the delinquency rate in the county was under five percent, and post COVID that rate has jumped to 15 percent...a 300 percent increase," said Nigam.
- Frederick County
 - a. In Frederick County, the number of confirmed cases stood at 2,820, an increase of 23 since 10 a.m. Wednesday. There were no related deaths in the county for the 19th consecutive day. Frederick Health Hospital announced Wednesday that it will close its drive-through testing site @ 11 a.m. on days when the temperature reaches 90 degrees and higher due to safety concerns.
 - b. The Frederick County Board of Education plans to meet July 29 to discuss the draft reopening plan that was published by FCPS earlier this month. Much of the plan focuses on a hybrid model for reopening in the fall, with students split into cohorts and attending school in-person two days a week and participating in virtual learning the other three days.
- Washington County
 - a. COVID-19 deaths in Washington County have remained stable at 29 in recent weeks, but cases of the disease continue to climb, according to county statistics. On Thursday, total cases since the pandemic began stood at 820, which is an increase of eight over a 24-hour period, according to the health department.
- Allegany County
 - a. Allegany County officials are seeking to purchase up to 1,400 coronavirus screening tests for Frostburg State University staff and students as the university prepares to open on Aug. 17. The Allegany County Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to seek a provider, through a bidding process, to administer up to 200 COVID-19 tests per week over a seven-week period. The testing, which will commence on Aug. 10, will be administered at a predetermined location on campus.
 - b. Businesses, in particular gas stations and convenience stores, are experiencing shortages of coins caused by COVID-19-related economic disruption. Regional convenience store chain Sheetz has been monitoring the shortage and is encouraging customers to pay with debit/credit cards or use the company's mobile app, and to contribute to its employee-driven coin collection charity campaign this month. "We're tracking all of those donations and we'll make a larger donation at the end of the month," said Nick Ruffner, the company's public relations manager. "In the meantime, it allows some more coins to get into the system." ([Cumberland Times](#))
 - c. Some employees at UPMC Western Maryland have tested positive for COVID-19, but the hospital system will not release numbers or details.
- Garrett County
 - a. Several more Garrett County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week, bringing the total count to 35. Dr. Jennifer Corder, deputy health officer for Garrett and Allegany counties, said the increase over the past two weeks continues to show an asymptomatic community spread of COVID-19 in Garrett County.

- b. The health department, in cooperation with state and local partners, tested 527 participants at a community COVID-19 testing event July 17 in Oakland.
- c. The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual “State of the County” Business Before Hours session virtually this year, giving the commissioners an opportunity to point to the highs and lows the area has experienced in the past year. Some revenue sources are down, but the accommodations tax is booming with soaring rentals at Deep Creek Lake.